

[18 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Death Sentence for Guilty of Child Prostitution

3553. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Law Commission has suggested to Government for making a provision for death-sentence to those found guilty of child prostitution;

(b) whether the Commission has also suggested for carrying out changes in the relevant sections of Indian Penal Code dealing with the punishment for rape and child prostitution; and

(c) if so, whether Government will take action on the suggestions made by Law Commission, while National Commission for Women has opposed it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report on "Review of Rape Laws" has recommended for changes in provisions relating to rape in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 to provide for stringent punishment for the offence of rape and child abuse.

(c) The recommendations of the Law Commission of India would be examined in consultation with the State Governments, as Criminal Law is on the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The National Commission for Women has, however, not opposed these recommendations.

Setting up wind power projects in Tamil Nadu

3554. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring in private sector units to establish wind power projects in Tamil Nadu, in particular, and in different parts of the country, in general;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the technical and other assistance to be extended by the

Government to the private sector units for setting up of wind farms in Tamil Nadu in particular and in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) A total wind power capacity of 1340 MW has so far been installed in the country, of which 1278 MW has come up through commercial projects by the private sector. In, Tamil Nadu, a total capacity of 813 MW has been installed, of which 794 MW has been set up by the private sector.

(c) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme, wind surveys are carried out to identify potential sites for wind power projects. A Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET) has been established in Chennai to provide technical support for wind power development. Funds are provided to the States for a limited number of demonstration projects. Fiscal and promotional incentives are also provided for commercial projects. Soft loans are available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for these projects. Potential States have announced policies for grid connection and sale of electricity generated from wind power projects.

Setting up Small Hydro Power Projects

3555. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a scheme to set up small hydro power projects up to 25 MW capacity in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received proposals from State Governments to set up such plants in the country with the help of NRIs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereon?